

REMARKS

Claims 1-70 are pending in the application. Claims 1-44 and 54-62 have been withdrawn. Claims 45-53 and 64-70 have been rejected; albeit, the Examiner indicated that claims 48 and 49 would be considered allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 45 has been amended to include limitations of similar scope to claim 48. Claim 48 has been cancelled. Claim 49 has been amended to depend from amended claim 45. The remaining claims 46, 47, 50-53, and 64-70 depend from amended claim 45.

Applicant has amended Independent claim 45 to incorporate limitations of similar scope to claim 48 responsive to the Examiner's indication that claim 48 would be considered allowable if re-written in independent form. The Applicant desires to proceed with issuance of the amended claims, but does not want this amendment to be viewed as an admission that the subject matter of claim 45 before the amendment was not patentable. To the contrary, Applicant maintains its position as reflected in its prior responses in relation to this application (all of which are incorporated herein by reference) that the subject matter of each of claims 45-53 and 64-70 before this amendment is novel and non-obvious. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of those claims in a divisional or continuation application. Applicant also reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the previously withdrawn claims 1-44 and 54-62 in a divisional application.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance and eventual issuance. Such action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further questions or comments that need be addressed in order to obtain allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Acknowledgement of receipt is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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